

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Violations of the Non-Fraternization Rule by Soviet Soldiers 2. Soviet Military Censorship Procedures	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1953
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ARMY review completed.

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Fraternization

1. Fraternization of Soviet personnel with Austrians was officially prohibited. However, most company-grade officers fraternized to a great extent. Platoon leaders did not usually punish EM for fraternization; but company COs, even though they did not like to punish the men, had no choice when the offense became known. Austrian Party Members were not interested in reporting instances of Soviet fraternization. The Austrian police did not have the authority to arrest Soviet personnel, but they were supposed to report any instances of fraternization to the Kommandatura. Kommandatura Patrols were given the main responsibility of preventing fraternization and arresting violators. [redacted] no men [redacted] were detailed to work with the Kommandatura Patrols.

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25 YEAR

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2. The UKR-OKR-"Smersh" was charged with reporting and preventing fraternization. [redacted] Soviet women officers, who ranged from lieutenants to lieutenant colonels and dressed in civilian clothes, were used to apprehend Soviet personnel who tried to contact Austrian civilians on the streets of Vienna. 25X1

[redacted] Each regiment sent out patrols to round up soldiers who were reported missing from the barracks during bedcheck. 25X1

3. [redacted]

Censorship

4. All incoming and outgoing mail and packages were censored. Packages were censored at the mail room of the regimental headquarters. [redacted] all other mail was censored at the main post office in Baden because the mail was stamped with the official Baden post office seal. 25X1

5. No military information could be written in letters. Soldiers were not allowed to complain about life in the army; they were supposed to write home that everything was satisfactory.

6. [redacted] soldiers had made a few minor complaints in their letters, such as mention of poor food and bad conditions. Such small violations were usually read to all the regiment and the offender received not more than 20 days in the guard house. One [redacted] soldiers who had been corresponding with an Austrian girl was caught and sentenced to 20 days in the guard house. [redacted] several other soldiers were corresponding with Austrian girls. 25X1

[redacted] the soldier would hand his letter to an Austrian friend, who would mail the letter by Austrian post under his own name. 25X1

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